



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 3, 2020

Chairwoman Nita Lowey
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Kay Granger
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger,

We write to thank you for your leadership in the fight against COVID-19, and we urge you to provide additional resources for vital research and development (R&D) efforts in future emergency supplemental appropriations bills.

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, have bioscience research facilities in our districts that are partnering with federal agencies including BARDA, NIH, CDC, and DTRA on the development and deployment of new diagnostics, drugs, vaccines and other health products to help us win this fight. We view the advancement of these efforts as our foundation to defeat the COVID-19 virus, and as a necessary investment to protect the health and economic security of Americans.

We know the suffering the virus is causing here—home to the most cutting-edge hospitals, best-trained health workers, and high-quality health products the world has ever seen. The effect of COVID-19 is projected to be even more devastating in communities around the world without these resources. As we consider what is needed for an exit strategy for America, we believe Congress also must make decisions now to shorten the timeline of suffering, stamp out the virus, and ensure efforts to defeat the pandemic globally are equally effective. These global efforts will be necessary to avoid the resurgence of the virus here at home.



Domestically, over the last two months, HHS and DoD have invested more than \$10 billion in research and development partnerships with leading universities and bioscience research companies across the United States. These research institutions are moving at record speed to develop, test, and manufacture new health technologies and to rapidly scale up the availability of effective COVID-19

diagnostics. This progress, fueled by R&D investments provided by Congress, will be critical in stamping out COVID-19 in our own districts and states.

Just as innovation has powered the steady progress we are making in combating COVID-19 at home, ending the pandemic will require investing in new innovations to address COVID-19 in some of the poorest places in the world. In low resource settings, mitigation techniques like handwashing and social distancing aren't always feasible, and isolating suspected cases to reduce the risk of death cannot be managed without the right products and personal protective equipment for frontline health workers. To address these challenges, our R&D investments at HHS and DoD must be matched by resourcing similar capabilities at USAID, a leader in global health innovation with a track record of delivering tools for emerging and enduring health threats, and by supporting global efforts to advance vaccine candidates through the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Initiatives (CEPI). To ensure success, these R&D investments must also be paired with funding to roll out and scale up new innovations through partners such as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

As we work to respond to the pressing needs in our own districts, we must do so with a global perspective in mind. Shoring up the gains we are fighting for against this emerging infectious disease will mean defeating COVID-19 in every community around the globe. Innovation is our exit strategy for this pandemic: investing now in critical research and development programs to respond to the full range of global needs is a down payment on ensuring that in the coming months American health workers are safe, American children return to school, and the American economy begins to rebuild.

Sincerely,



Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress